

ELEMENT 5

The process for ensuring adequate authority for intergovernmental cooperation in the implementation of the State Water Quality Management Program

Summary – Missouri’s Continuing Planning Process (CPP) for water quality planning and management activities is specifically required under Section 303 (e)(1) of the Clean Water Act, 33U.S.C. s/s 1251et seq.(1977). Section 303(e) provides that each State shall have a continuing planning process consistent with the requirements of the Clean Water Act (the Act). State authorization for water pollution control programs is found in the policy statement in Missouri Clean Water Law, Section 644.011 RSMo (Missouri Revised Statutes). This authorization provides the planning and implementation authority for water quality management required under the Clean Water Act. Under Chapter 644 RSMo, the Commission is designated as the water pollution control agency for the state of Missouri. Part of the Commission’s authority is to develop comprehensive plans and programs for the prevention, control and abatement of new or existing pollution of the waters of the state. States are authorized under Section 303 of the Clean Water Act to develop Water Quality Standards and implementation plans to carry out the federal requirements of the Act. In the development of these plans the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is the designated state agency committed to the continuing planning process for water pollution control programs. Representatives from the department’s Water Pollution Control Program attend the local Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) meetings, which provide some of the most productive, cooperative meetings among interested public and private agencies and associations to discuss and develop mutual understanding of the issues in water quality control.

This element also mentions the departmental agreements for continued collaborative effort with the following agencies and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (the department) under the Missouri Clean Water Law; the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Watershed Inventory and Assessment Project, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the department’s Solid Waste Management Program, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, the Missouri Department of Health, the Missouri Department of Economic Development, the Missouri Public Service Commission, the department’s Land Reclamation Program, including the Technical Assistance Program, the Environmental Services Program and the Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority,(EIERA), the Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division as well as all of the department’s regional and local offices. Various activities are described in this element that demonstrate intergovernmental effort.

Authorized Intergovernmental Cooperation

The authority that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources has under the federal Clean Water Act, amended recently in 1992, allows the program to develop effective lines of communication and cooperation with other local, state and federal agencies in order to implement water quality management programs.

Missouri's Continuing Planning Process for water quality management is required under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act. This section of the Act further describes the nine required elements of the CPP document and gives the department its continuing planning authority in order to implement all the requirements for water quality planning and management.

State authorization for water pollution control programs is found in the statement of policy, Missouri Clean Water Law, Section 644.011 RSMo. Missouri Clean Water Law and regulations under Chapter 644, RSMo, provides the planning and implementation authority necessary to satisfy the water quality management planning requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and its amendments. It is declared in the policy statement that the state must maintain control of its water pollution control program. "It is the public policy of this state to conserve the waters of the state, to protect, maintain and improve the quality thereof for public water supplies and for domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational, and other legitimate and beneficial uses and for the propagation of wildlife, fish and aquatic life; to provide that no waste be discharged into any waters of the state without first receiving the necessary or other corrective action to correct the legitimate beneficial uses of such waters and meet the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution control Act, (referred to as the Clean Water Act); to provide for the prevention, abatement and control of new or existing water pollution; and to cooperate with other agencies of the state, agencies of other states, the federal government and any other persons in carrying out these objectives."

Clean Water Commission: Designated Water Pollution Control Agency

Under Section 644.136 RSMo, the Missouri Clean Water Commission is designated as the water pollution control agency for the state. The commission may therefore take action to obtain the benefits of any federal act or to obtain federal approval of any state water quality pollution program. The commission is designated as the water contaminant control agency for the state under Section 644.021 RSMo, and is composed of six members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

Missouri Clean Water Law, found in Chapter 644 RSMo, defines the powers and duties of the Clean Water Commission. The commission may adopt, amend, promulgate, or repeal after due notice and hearing, rules and regulations to enforce, implement and to effectuate its powers and duties under sections 644.006 through 644.141 and any rules and regulation required of the state under the Clean Water Act. Under section 644.026 the commission must develop comprehensive plans and programs for the prevention, control and abatement of new or existing pollution of the waters of the state.

Sections 644.006-644.141 give the commission authority to impose the requirements set by federal acts to prevent or control and correct existing or potential pollution. The Commission may grant variances under section 644.061, unless prohibited by the federal Water Pollution Control Act. Section 644.066 describes how public hearings must be conducted.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is the administrative agent for the Clean Water Commission.

Clean Water Commission: Supporting Programs

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources provides staff support to the Clean Water Commission. The staff is housed in a number of locations including the Water Pollution Control Program, the Water Protection and Soil Conservation Division, the Technical Assistance Program, the Environmental Services Program and six regional offices. The regional offices have responsibilities for inspections and permits in their areas and are referred to in this document.

Statewide water quality management is not limited solely to the Water Pollution Control Program. Support activities of the regional offices, the Environmental Services Program, the Technical Assistance Program, the department's legal counsel, the Attorney General's Office and county prosecutors, and the Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division are all involved in the protection of Missouri's water bodies.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee

The Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) facilitates the most productive method for cooperation among interested public and private agencies and associations to discuss and develop mutual understanding of the problems in water quality control. There are several intergovernmental agencies that send representatives to the monthly meetings, and there are several private sector organizations that attend and or participate in reviews of the committee's work. Smaller advisory groups are formed from the broad spectrum of agencies and organizations that maintain an interest in the committee's discussions and activities.

This large group is an informal interagency and public committee. It meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. in Jefferson City or Columbia. Approximately 30 organizations send representatives to attend these meetings, which are usually chaired by the Water Pollution Control Program.

Conservation Federation of Missouri, Missouri Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources: Citizen Involvement

The Department of Natural Resources cooperates with the Conservation Federation of Missouri and the Department of Conservation in managing the Stream Team and Volunteer Monitoring Programs. These two programs provide for citizen education and involvement in water quality issues. Data received as a result of the teams is used directly for modeling and assessment in similar ways as agency collected data. This program has been the recipient of a national award from the Wildlife Federation.

Missouri Watershed Inventory and Assessment Project: Framework for Watershed Restoration Strategies

The Unified Watershed Inventory and Assessment Project is the collaborative work of the Missouri Unified Watershed Assessment (UWA), composed of several organizations. The UWA Unified Watershed Inventory and Assessment Project is the key activity under the federal Clean Water Action Plan for restoring and protecting the nation's water resources. The original project

was prepared through a collaborative effort of nine federal water and natural resource management agencies.

The Missouri Unified Watershed Assessment is being revisited by the Missouri Watershed Inventory and Assessment Project (MOWIAP) advisory and technical committees of public and private agencies and interests, to refine the initial 8-digit Missouri Unified Watershed Assessment to the 11 or 14 digit hydrologic unit code resolution. The inventory and assessment work of the committee will provide a framework for the implementation of watershed restoration strategies. This work is funded by a grant from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Center for Agricultural, Resource and Environmental Systems (CARES), with limited data resources available at this time.

The work of the inventory and assessment project will result in a Multiple Attribute Prioritization of Missouri Watersheds, based on sound water quality variables. The end product is expected to have more utility than the current Missouri Unified Watershed Assessment that is based on a single ranking of hydrologic unit codes.

When finished, the public will have access to the Multiple Attribute Prioritization of Missouri Watersheds data. The department provides planning and technical representation to this stakeholder technical advisory committee composed of academic, public and private professionals.

Memorandums of Understanding and/or Agreement

Performance Partnership Agreement

An agreement by the department's Water Protection and Soil Conservation Division and EPA, Region 7 for Federal Fiscal Year 2000-2001, outlines the relationship between the agencies as they work together to protect the environment and health and safety of the citizens of the state. Missouri is authorized to administer federal programs under the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Various grants and state funds, as well as program permitting fees supplement the federal grant monies received through the Clean Water Act, Section 106 funding. For FY 1999, Missouri's Strategic Plan identifies all of the environmental activities, regardless of funding sources that support the department's environmental functions. The department submits the Strategic Plan as part of the Performance Partnership Agreement.

Memorandum of Understanding and Agreements

Some Memorandums of Understanding that are possible under the authority granted the department for intergovernmental cooperation are listed here. Some are drafts of agreements ready for implementation, others are in effect, and still others are in the review process. Copies of finalized agreements that may be of interest to the public are available by calling the Water Pollution Control Program at 1-800-361-4827 or (573) 751-1300 or calling one of the partner agencies in the Memorandum of Understanding.

- The Memorandum of Understanding between the Water Pollution Control Program and the Solid Waste Management Program was revised March 19, 1999. This has established a mutual understanding for coordinating inter-related permit, inspection and enforcement activities related to solid waste and water pollution control facilities. This memorandum clarifies primary responsibilities under the Missouri Solid Waste Management Law and Missouri Clean Water Law in areas of mutual interests, such as permitted solid waste disposal areas and solid waste processing facilities and clean fill and industrial residuals treatment, storage and disposal facilities, and other areas.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between the Missouri departments of Economic Development and of Natural Resources encourages cooperation between the two agencies administrative capacities. Both agencies have financial and technical assistance program available to assist Missouri communities. Provisions for cost-effective and environmentally sound water and wastewater systems are currently undergoing revision. The responsibilities of these two agencies and the USDA's Rural Development have led to the creation of the Missouri Water and Wastewater Review Committee (MWWRC). This committee reviews construction grant and loan applications.
- The Memorandum of Understanding Between the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Public Service Commission regarding the Public Service Commission Regulated Water and Sewer Corporations is a result of discussions among the water and sewer departments and the commission. A comprehensive picture in terms of the regulatory documents that are provided to the Public Service Commission for review was needed. As a result of this interagency agreement pertinent requirements are provided from the Water Pollution Control Program regarding the water utilities.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Land Reclamation Program and the Water Pollution Control Program is being revised. This memorandum describes how each program within the department will contribute its resources toward ensuring that discharges from surface coal mines, including leachate from coal combustion by-products deposited at the mine site, do not prevent the waters of the state from meeting established water quality criteria.
- A Memorandum of Understanding exists between the University of Missouri Outreach and Extension and the Missouri Watershed Information Network (MOWIN). The Missouri Watershed Information Network is a cooperative effort between the University of Missouri, state and federal agencies, non-government organizations, natural interest groups and private industry working together to facilitate access to watershed information in Missouri.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the EPA relates to the determination of impaired waters and corresponding listed pollutants. The Department of Natural Resources agrees to develop a new Total Maximum Daily Load Strategy Document in advance of the 2002 303(d) list. The document will be made available to the public 120 days prior to the development of the next 303(d) list.

Memorandum of Agreement

- A Memorandum of Agreement between the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission addresses a cooperative agreement concerning the Upper White River Watershed. The Upper White River Watershed is very important both economically and environmentally to Missouri and Arkansas. While water quality in this watershed is good, some signs of degradation have been appearing during recent years. By Nov. 11, 1999, all agencies had signed the agreement.
- Currently being revised is a Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Department of Conservation to initiate a statewide ecological monitoring effort of fish and aquatic invertebrate communities and physical habitat in the year 2001. This type of monitoring will provide the best opportunity for determining the habitat status of individual streams with respect to the 303(d) list for impaired waters. The streams now listed on the 303(d) list as having significant habitat loss represent only a small fraction of the streams in Missouri believed to have habitat loss. The primary evidence for loss or degradation of aquatic habitat in Missouri on a statewide basis is the distribution study of Missouri fish by the Conservation Department. This work shows the declines in total fish species are the greatest in the agricultural sections of the state.
- The Memorandum of Agreement between the departments of Health and of Natural Resources for cooperation on sewage problems was written in 1996. To eliminate bureaucratic overlap, this agreement established Health and Natural Resources as responsible areas for policies and procedures regarding septic tank requirements. This agreement provided a division of responsibility for the review and permitting activities of the two agencies. Other Memorandums of Agreement remain in effect.

There are additional ongoing areas of concern and discussion in the administration of applicable Water Quality Standards where agencies have similar duties and responsibilities that are of a technical nature. Revisions are available for public review. Copies of any documents that clarify department policies and processes are available upon request.

The above Memorandums of Understanding and Agreement and letters of discussion include areas of mutual regulatory interests which greatly facilitate the activities of the interested parties in the continual development and refinement of department policies and procedures.

Public Drinking Water and the Water Pollution Control Effort

The Water Pollution Control Program coordinates with the department's Public Drinking Water Program in operator training and certification, administering rural water and wastewater treatment grants, locating water supply intakes in relation to wastewater discharges in streams and rivers, and monitoring water quality in public wells.

Clean Water Act Grants Funding Sources

State funding under the Clean Water Act is accomplished in many sections of the Act. Federal funds from Section 604(b) of the Act are awarded under Section 205 (j)(2) to state water quality management agencies to carry out water quality management planning. Water Pollution Control Program planning for water quality under the yearly 604(b) grant from EPA to the department includes the revising of Water Quality Standards, the inclusion of risk-based groundwater standards, anti-degradation implementation policy, the continuing planning process toxicity testing, area-wide wastewater management prioritization and planning studies. In addition, under 604(b) the Water Pollution Control Program is required to pass through a portion of the federal water quality management funds for water quality planning to Missouri communities. Communities are invited each year to submit their competitive project proposals through their Regional Planning Commissions and the Missouri Councils of Governments for funding under the authority of Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act. The emphasis has been on projects that support community or ecosystem based environmental protection, for example watershed protection initiatives.

Section 319 funds under the Clean Water Act are used for programs and projects for nonpoint source management. Section 319 funds support the implementation of the Missouri Nonpoint Source Management Program. These funds are limited to a competitive bid process used to ensure that the most appropriate projects are selected for funding. Grant funds must be used in a manner consistent with the state's Nonpoint Source Management Plan. The plan is on the department's web site at <http://www.dnr.state.mo.us/deq/wpcp/homewpcp.htm>.

To read more about grants and loan programs in the CPP see those listed in Element 4. For more information on applications, eligibility and restrictions consult the references and sources of information provided in Element 4, visit the department's web site, <http://www.dnr.state.mo.us>, call the Water Pollution Control Program at (573) 751-1300 or visit the Web site for the catalog of federal domestic assistance, to <http://www.cfda.gov>.

Financial Assistance

With the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act, Congress set 1990 as the last year that construction grant funds would be appropriated. By phasing out the construction grants program, EPA shifted the method for municipal wastewater treatment financing assistance from grants to loans provided by State Revolving Funds.

The Department of Natural Resources and Clean Water Commission oversee several types of financial assistance provided to protect and preserve water quality. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund, authorized by both state and federal laws, is the largest assistance program. This program provides low interest loans for the construction of sewer systems and wastewater treatment plants. The revolving fund also provides low-interest loans to small producers for the construction of animal waste facilities. This agricultural program is operated in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Agriculture. The department is planning to expand the State Revolving Fund into other areas of nonpoint source problems. Examples include septic tanks and the need for agricultural best management practices.

The commission also oversees grants to urban communities for the construction of storm water facilities. In 1998 the Water Pollution Control Program and the Clean Water Commission developed rules for a new loan program for storm water. State bonds have been authorized to provide loans and grants for rural water and sewer grants. Local communities and rural interests are involved in both formal and informal meetings and in advisory groups. Notices and agendas and meeting minutes are published on the department's Web site.

- **Municipal Wastewater Treatment Financing** is a cooperative effort of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection and Soil Conservation Division, Missouri Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority and the Missouri Clean Water Commission.
- **Animal Waste Treatment Financing** is a cooperative effort of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection and Soil Conservation Division; Missouri Department of Agriculture; Missouri Agriculture and Small Business Development Authority; and the Missouri Clean Water Commission.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

The Missouri Clean Water Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other state agencies helped establish the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The State Revolving Fund provides loan monies to communities and districts for construction of wastewater treatment and collection systems (sewage treatment) projects. In addition, revolving fund loans are available for drinking water projects, low-cost bond issuance to assist private water companies to construct new water systems with emergency loan funds for short-term project needs. The prospective borrower must demonstrate to the Missouri Clean Water Commission that the project is eligible under the state and federal clean water acts. Once the Clean water commission reviews the project proposal under the state's Intended Use Plan, the project undergoes a credit review. Once approved, the Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority issues bonds for the state's leveraged loan package. The authority continues to develop alternative financing.

Missouri's Nonpoint Source Management Plan

Plan development and review for the Missouri Nonpoint Source Management Plan was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 in 1989 and was revised and approved most recently by the US EPA Region 7 June, 2000. The plan continues to be developed with participation from nonpoint source partner agencies, organizations and the public. This cooperative effort is a vital part of the continuing planning process within the department. Federal, state and local agencies and private organizations were contacted and consulted through written memorandum, meetings, e-mail and telephone conferencing.

Document revisions occurred over a three-year period. Representatives from each agency and organization were invited to participate in the management plan workgroup to develop the strategic plan, review drafts and comments and contribute information on their nonpoint source related goals. Public involvement is provided through the public notice and comment process through press releases and the department's Web site. The document is available on the Web.

Water Quality Standards Development

The Clean Water Act, Section 303, authorizes states to develop Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans to carry out the federal requirements of the Act. The Missouri Clean Water Law gives the Commission authority to develop Water Quality Standards, one of the foundations of the Commission's efforts in the development of the state's water quality for its streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands.

Water quality data received from the Water Pollution Control Program's monitoring system, other agencies, special studies and volunteer monitors is used to compare the quality of streams, rivers and lakes to the state's standards. The Environmental Services Program assists with the collection and analysis of water and biological samples. The results of the monitoring efforts are updated every two years and published in the Missouri Water Quality Report to Congress, referred to as the 305(b) report required under the Clean Water Act.

The development of standards and assessments is required under federal law. Waters that fail to meet standards are listed on Missouri's 303(d) list for impaired waters (required under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act) and are targeted for studies and corrective actions to return them to compliance. The most recent studies are called Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies. The 2000 Department of Natural Resources budget expansion is based primarily on the need to develop TMDLs for all impaired water bodies and to begin to establish the process to coordinate the cleanup of impaired waters. The TMDL studies will continue until 2009.

Please see Appendix E for the program's Public Review Distribution List and Interagency Review Distribution Lists. These lists provide a look at the statewide scope of those most active in the interagency activities concerning the state's water quality management planning processes.

Cooperative Field Effort

Environmental Services Program

The Environmental Services Program assists the Water Pollution Control Program in two distinct areas, the collection and/or spill of water samples and through their involvement in the spill program, and through Quality Assurance Project Plans, which are the responsibility of the program supervising the particular project.

The Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Network project is the responsibility of the Water Pollution Control Program. Missouri does not have the ability alone to adequately characterize water chemistry on large- and medium-sized rivers in the state with its fixed station network, run in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey. Smaller, more numerous streams are often more susceptible to water quality problems due to their small volume of flow. They are not sampled on a regular basis. The absence of this data reduces the state's assessment of impairment due to extensive (regional scale) stressors of smaller streams and also to define, on a regional basis, background water quality, which is important in setting goals for remediation projects.

Environmental Services staff conduct chemical monitoring quarterly at 24 sites in this project. Some of the monitoring sites are in watersheds that are considered to be typical of regional land use and whose streams will be used to define background water quality of smaller streams in the state within the specific physiographic region the stream is located. Knowledge of this background level of water quality is important for implementation of the anti-degradation requirements in Missouri's Water Quality Standards in the department's rules (10 Code of State Regulations (CSR) Division 20-7.031) and for setting target goals for regional-scale water quality management projects. Streams affected by point or nonpoint source pollution yield water quality data that is compared to established Water Quality Standards to determine if the stream is in compliance with standards, and where applicable, this data is used to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads. There is also a comparison to regional background water quality to determine if water quality in the streams deviates from regional norms. Regional office staff carry out stream sampling all seasons of the year. Field measurements are made at each site and include flow, water temperature, conductivity, pH and dissolved oxygen. Precision and accuracy are required in the chemical analysis of the water for calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, bicarbonate, sulfate, chloride, nitrate and many other minerals.

Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) are developed each year. For FY 2000-2001 QAPPs include, for example, Herbicide Monitoring of Public Drinking Water Reservoirs, Low Flow Surveys, and Biocriteria Development and Fish Tissue Monitoring. There is ongoing planning in FY 2002 for waste load allocation studies and sediment monitoring networks.

Quality Assurance Project Plan are mandated by the granting agency. These plans verify the impacts to the environment from the project. QAPPs for Section 319 projects evaluate environmental impacts on water quality. These quality assurance plans establish the protocol used in collection and transport of field samples and in acceptable laboratory analysis. The content of the QAPP is site-specific. Several months are needed to assemble the information.

Many point and nonpoint sources of pollution cause water quality impairment. Resolution of these problems requires a fairly accurate description of the nature, magnitude and extent of the water quality impairment. Waste load allocation studies, for example, assist in better definition of water quality problems and in the selection of appropriate controls. It is critical to reassess water quality and or biotic integrity of the water body to judge the success or failure of the controls that are implemented.

Additional funding for water quality monitoring has become a priority for EPA and the Water Protection and Soil Conservation Division (previously part of the Division of Environmental Quality). The Water Quality Monitoring Unit within the Environmental Services Program has recently doubled in size, due to data collection needs related to TMDLs. Contracts with USGS and universities around the state have been expanded to provide additional monitoring data. Both the state and federal agencies are acutely aware of the need to invest in monitoring efforts.

Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division

The Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division provides geologic evaluations that classify streams as either gaining or losing flow and provides technical opinions on the suitability of a site for various wastewater treatment alternatives. The division reviews the geologic setting

of planned facilities to assure ground water protection. Wastewater treatment facilities must meet effluent regulations and water quality standards for required limitations and conditions.

The Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division's Geological Survey Program (GSP) is also engaged in various activities with the Water Pollution Control Program. The GSP provides technical assistance to the water program on geologic and hydrologic issues related to impaired waters of the state. This assistance is expected to include various tasks related to Total Maximum Daily Load development and may include other activities having influence on impacted waters. The Water Pollution Control Program and the Water Resources Program use similar sources of low-flow survey data including the U.S. Geological Survey. The Water Pollution Control Program reviews flow data from all possible sources and if necessary requests additional flow monitoring. In addition, the Water Pollution Control Program is calling on the Geological Survey Program to conduct a survey of lead-zinc mine tailings areas, identifying tailings near streams for FY 00-01. Residential Housing Development and Waste Treatment Project reports consist of geological conditions with information as to minimum lot size for a site as well as other reports for activities planned by Geological Survey Programs. Upwards of 90 sites may be evaluated for FY 2001. Geological Survey Program activities are also planned for evaluations to be completed by staff geologists on lagoons, land application sites and other types of alternative wastewater treatment systems for municipal wastes. In addition, the Well Head Protection Section, the Environmental Geology Section and the Water Well Drillers Unit provide the Water Pollution Control Program assistance as needed.

Environmental Assistance Office

The Environmental Assistance Office (EAO) provides technical assistance and pollution prevention evaluations related to water pollution issues. Local governments and various private industries will request technical and onsite assistance related to existing or potential water pollution situations. The program will not assist if the facility is under enforcement action unless authorization is obtained from the enforcement section.

The EAO Government Assistance Unit provides a range of technical and financial capacity assessments and development assistance to communities and others. This unit conducts the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention survey. Information is provided through workshops and public meetings to assist communities in understanding how to access and use all government resources to deal with point and nonpoint water quality issues.

The EAO Agricultural Assistance Unit represents the Water Pollution Control Program on agricultural boards and councils, reviews grant proposals and provides information and onsite assistance to sand and gravel operators.

The Operator Certification and Training Unit administers programs for operators of wastewater treatment facilities and Class1A Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. The Technical Assistance Program directs calls for assistance with domestic sludge requirements to EPA Region 7. The program is expected to conduct several workshops concerning storm water for FY 2001. The program assists in the marketing of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program and other grant programs to potential applicants and refers those prospects to the Water Pollution Control Program for application processing. The Environmental Assistance Office

directly assists communities in consultant selection, execution of engineering contracts, finding available financing and promotion of bond elections if needed. The Water Pollution Control Program and regional offices refer information and technical assistance requests and requests for site visits and applicable training requests to the Environmental Assistance Office for action when so doing results in the best provision of service to each requestor.

In the Water Pollution Control Program's agreement with the EAO, the water program receives, reviews, issues and tracks permits; provides documentation to the department's regional offices; operates grant and loan programs that address point and nonpoint sources of water pollution; carries out numerous planning activities that enhance, prioritize and assess water pollution control efforts; maintains the State Revolving Fund Loan program in accordance with EPA requirements; and updates Environmental Assistance on current regulatory issues.

Web Access to Water Resource Information

A clearinghouse for the Missouri Watershed Information Network can be accessed at <http://outreach.missouri.edu/mowin/>. The EPA Web site can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov>, and another federal comprehensive source of information on wastewater treatment quality from the EPA Office of Wastewater Management can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/OWOWM.html>. Visit the department's Web site to view the department's Nonpoint Source Management Plan, <http://www.state.mo.us> and the Water Resources Web at <http://www.dnr.state.mo.us/dgls/wrp/wrphp>.

References

Clean Water Act, Amended 1992. Missouri Clean Water Law, Section 644.141, Designation of special areas by governor-appointment of agency to control, A. Planning Authority, B. Management Authority, C. Interstate Agencies, D. Termination of Authority, and Section 644.136, Commission designated official agency to deal with federal government relative to water pollution.